

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/NL2004/000737

International filing date (day/month/year)
19.10.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
25.11.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
B60B27/02, B60B5/02, B60B27/06

Applicant
GIANT MANUFACTURING CO. LTD

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**International application No.
PCT/NL2004/000737**Box No. I Basis of the opinion**

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
PCT/NL2004/000737

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	3-10, 12-14
	No: Claims	1,2,11,15,16
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	3-10
	No: Claims	1,2,11-16
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-16
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Re Item V.

- 1 The following document is referred to in this communication:

D1 : US 5 553 878 A (DAVIGNON ET AL) 10 September 1996 (1996-09-10)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIM 1

- 2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claims 1, 15 and 16 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.

- 2.2 Document D1 discloses the subject-matter of claim 1, see figure 7 (the references in parentheses applying to this document):

A wheel (20) comprising a hollow central body, in which a coupling element (42;68;69) for coupling to a wheel shaft (48) and to the central body is present, and in which the coupling element (42;68;69) is a coupling element that is exchangeable in dependence on the fact whether the wheel shaft (48) is a driven shaft or not.

For the same reason independent claims 15 and 16 are also not new.

3. DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2, 11-14

Dependent claims 2, 11-14 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step (Article 33(2) and (3) PCT).

- 3.1 Document D1 discloses in figure 7 that coupling element (42) is an insert, and that it is used in a child's bicycle. The subject-matter of claims 2 and 11 are therefore not new.

- 3.2 The subject-matter of claims 12-14 is well known in the art, and if the person skilled in the art would consider it appropriate to apply it to the wheel as claimed in claim 1, he would do so.

4. The subject-matter of claims 3-10 is not disclosed in, or rendered obvious by, the available prior art. It therefore appears to meet the requirements of the PCT with regard to novelty and inventive step.

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

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- 4.1 In particular, the combination of the subject-matter of claims 1, 2 and 3 is neither known from, nor rendered obvious by, the available prior art. It is suggested that a new independent claim be drafted to include these features.
5. The subject-matter of claim 4 has not been understood entirely, it is not clear how the internal coupling means (see also page 5, lines 17-18) could provide a rotatable or rigid coupling with the wheel shaft.